

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: ILO, PLAB

SUBJECT: ILO: DIRECTOR GENERAL APPEALS FOR AGREEMENT
ON STRUCTURE

REF: GENEVA 6622

1. ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD MET WITH IMEC REPRESENTATIVES MAY 5 (REFTEL). HE SAID HE WANTED TO BRING IMEC UP TO DATE ON A SERIES OF ISSUES CONFRONTING THE ILO. HE SAID HIS MEETINGS WITH LABOR MINISTERS AT THE RECENT AFRICAN LABOR MINISTERS CONFERENCE CONVINCED HIM THAT THEY ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE ISSUE OF STRUCTURE. THE COMPOSITION OF THE GOVERNING BODY MUST CHANGE AND THERE MUST BE AN AGREEMENT NO LATER THAN THIS JUNE. HE SAID IF THE WORKING PARTY ON STRUCTURE DOES NOT REACH AN AGREEMENT, THE ISSUE WILL BE TAKEN UP BY THE CONFERENCE WHERE MUCH MISCHIEF COULD TAKE PLACE. HE STATED, "I PREFER A LARGER GOVERNING BODY, EVEN WITH THE RISK OF DIFFICULT DISCUSSIONS TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENT GOVERNING BODY WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO BE SUBJECTED TO PRESSURES BY THE CONFERENCE".

2. HE SAID HE WAS CONVINCED THAT AFRICA WILL NOT ACCEPT
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FEWER THAN TWELVE SEATS IN A NEW GOVERNING BODY(CURRENT DISCUSSIONS HAVE MENTIONED ELEVEN SEATS FOR AFRICA). HE URGED IMEC TO WORK FOR A FORMULA THAT WOULD END UP WITH FOUR REGIONS WHICH HE SAID SHOULD NOT BE CONFUSED WITH THE ELECTORAL COLLEGES. WITHIN THE EUROPEAN REGION, FOR EXAMPLE, EASTERN EUROPE COULD HAVE ITS OWN ELECTORAL COLLEGE IN WHATEVER FORM IT SO DESIRED.

3. BLANCHARD REFERRED TO THE GOVERNMENT WORKING PARTY ON STRUCTURE MEETING WHICH ENDED APRIL 29. HE SAID IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION THAT THE PARTICIPANTS WERE CLOSE TO AN AGREEMENT BUT THAT PERSONALITIES GOT IN THE WAY. HE NOTED THAT SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE G-77 AND CERTAIN IMEC COUNTRIES HAD EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION WITH THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF AMBASSADOR AZIMI (IRAN). HE APPEALED TO IMEC TO CONTINUE TO WORK WITH AZIMI, STATING IT WOULD BE WRONG TO MAKE A CHANGE AT THIS CRUCIAL STAGE.

4. SOME IMEC REPS, PARTICULARLY DANISH AMBASSADOR KASTOFT, EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT AGREEMENT ON STRUCTURE COULD BE REACHED THIS YEAR. THE DG ACKNOWLEDGED THE DIFFICULTY BUT UNDERScoreD HIS CONCERN AS THE MEETING ADJOURNED, BY REPEATING, "STRUCTURE, STRUCTURE*" VANDEN HEUVEL

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